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the person of Christ, of a vicarious atonement, and of the absolute supremacy of Holy Scripture.

The least satisfactory chapter in the book is that entitled "Doubts." After a pretty full account of religious doubt and the sources from which it springs, little or nothing is offered in remedy but "evidences" and "experience" and prayer—and these remedies are put in vague, indefinite language. It would have been briefer and more to the point to have appealed to authority. Listen to the teaching of the church, and find in it the final answer to every question concerning the faith which is salvation.

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THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER. His Aims and Methods. Lectures on Pastoral Theology at the four Scottish Universities, sessions 1897-98 and 1898-99. By JAMES ROBERTSON, D.D. Edinburgh and London: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, 1899. Pp. 184. 3s. 6d.

THE main thing which distinguishes these lectures is that they contain the experiences and opinions of a country minister. In Scotland more perhaps than in any other Protestant land the country church contains not a little of the intellectual ability of the pulpit, and this because nowhere else are there such intelligent and interested congregations. It is well, therefore, that one of the ablest of the country pastors of Scotland should be invited to address the candidates for her ministry. The differences between the country ministers in one part of the world and those in another are not radical. From Holland, Germany, Sweden, and France we have had volumes dealing with the life of a pastor in a rural parish which are of service under similar circumstances in New Hampshire and Iowa. Dr. Robertson's volume contains little that is new or striking, but it is almost always practical, and through it all runs a fine vein of common-sense which students in theological seminaries will do wisely to work with care. The style is Scottish, which is as much as to say that it is more remarkable for strength than for beauty, and we must be allowed to deprecate the author's use of italics, and still more decidedly his omission of both index and table of contents. It is also a blemish in Dr. Robertson's six lectures that they cover, or attempt to cover, too much ground. They hover where they should rather pitch. But for all that they may with advantage be added to the row of books dealing with practical

theology. Dr. Robertson has the true conception of what a preacher and pastor should be. He has a wholesome dread of multiplying machinery and failing to develop character. He is fully alive to the changes which are passing over the whole activities of the church. He notes the altered doctrinal emphasis in the sermon; the new conception of what a preacher needs to say and to be. He is not afraid to warn his hearers that we are tempted at the present time to refrain from putting "such meaning as there ought to be put into what the Scripture calls the revelation of the 'wrath of God,' or 'the wrath to come.'" Yet he is evidently well read in the theology of today, and he commands a wealth of anecdotes and illustrations which puts life and vigor into his pages, and all the more because he draws from his own resources, and chiefly from his own reading and observation, during many years of pastoral experience.

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Early Israel and the Surrounding Nations. By Rev. A. H. Sayce, Professor of Assyriology at Oxford. (New York: E. R. Herrick & Co., 1899; pp. xxvii + 337; \$1.50.) Professor Sayce's popular little books on ancient oriental history and archaeology are being turned out at the rate of one or more a year with great regularity. Each succeeding one serves up the old material with a few new facts and hypotheses in so clever a way that we have to buy it and enjoy the reading thereof. The absence of references, the repetitiousness, and the want of an index are unscholarlike and evidence the haste and carelessness with which these books are prepared. It is unnecessary to call attention to the assertion of unfounded new theories and the tacit withdrawal of old ones which these successive volumes disclose. They are essentially ephemeral affairs.—*The Messages of the Later Prophets*: arranged in the order of time, analyzed and freely rendered in paraphrase. By Frank Knight Sanders, Ph.D., and Charles Foster Kent, Ph.D. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899; pp. xx + 382; \$1.25.) The success of this series has been assured by the popular favor shown to the former volume, *Messages of the Earlier Prophets*. And why should it not be successful, since its clearly written introductions, admirable plan, careful analysis, and well-wrought paraphrase open up the secret of Old Testament prophetic literature in a thorough and satisfactory way? Some may object to placing Joel and